## REMARKS

Status of the Claims

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 5, 2008. Claims 1 and 4-19 are presented for examination, of which claims 1 and 19 are in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended solely to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Support for claim 1 is found in the application as filed and in Figures 2 and 3. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 19 has been allowed and that claims 7 and 9-13 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully decline to so rewrite the claims at this time, for at least the reason that its base claim is believed to be allowable, as discussed below.

Prior-Art Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 8, 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,622,996 ("Mayerböck et al."). In addition, claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mayerböck et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,301,414 ("Gautheron") and claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mayerböck et al.

Claim 1 is directed to a hydroelastic joint for assembling pieces of a structure and for damping vibrations transmitted between the pieces. The joint includes an external reinforcement, an intermediate reinforcement, an internal reinforcement, and an assembly forming a hydroelastic spring. The assembly is disposed between the external and intermediate reinforcements in order to permit a relative transverse displacement between the external and

intermediate reinforcements. The assembly includes a first elastically deformable element shaped to delimit between the external and intermediate reinforcements a sealed volume containing damping fluid.

The joint further includes a plurality of longitudinal bosses separating the sealed volume into a plurality of chambers, and additionally includes a second elastically deformable element disposed between the intermediate reinforcement and the internal reinforcement. The second elastically deformable element forms an elastic spring and has a longitudinal dimension less than a corresponding longitudinal dimension of the first elastically deformable element, in order to limit a transverse deformation of the first elastically deformable element during a relative tilting of the longitudinal axes of the external and internal reinforcements about at least one transverse tilting axis.

The longitudinal dimension of each of the first and second elastically deformable elements are defined as an axial dimension of a portion that substantially fills a radial space between corresponding ones of the reinforcements. The intermediate reinforcement is disposed between the first and second elastically deformable elements, such that the first and second elastically deformable elements adhere without interruption to the intermediate reinforcement, and such that the second elastically deformable element adheres without interruption to the internal reinforcement. In addition, the intermediate reinforcement and the internal reinforcement each comprises a cylindrical central portion with a constant cross-section.

One of the notable features of claim 1 is that the first and second elastically deformable elements adhere without interruption to the intermediate reinforcement, and that the second elastically deformable element adheres without interruption to the internal reinforcement.

Another notable feature of claim 1 is that the intermediate reinforcement and the internal reinforcement each comprises a cylindrical central portion with a constant cross-section.

In Applicant's view, non of the cited references teaches or suggests a hydroelastic joint having an intermediate reinforcement and an internal reinforcement each having a cylindrical portion with a constant cross-section, as recited in claim 1.

Mayerböck et al. relates to a hydraulically-damping rubber bearing. The bearing has an intermediate tubular part 1 and an internal tubular part 3. The central portion of the internal tubular part is crowned or spherical, rather than having a constant cross-section. Similarly, the central portion of the intermediate tubular part 1 is crowned (see col. 2, lines 50-53, Fig. 1-2). Accordingly, Mayerböck et al. does not teach or suggest an intermediate reinforcement and an internal reinforcement each having a cylindrical central portion with a constant cross-section, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Mayerböck.

Claims 4, 8, 14, 15, 16 and 18 depend from claim 1 and therefore are believed patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the reasons discussed above. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, there is nothing in Gautheron that remedies the deficiencies of Mayerböck. Applicants thus respectfully submit that any hypothetical combination of Mayerböck and Gautheron, assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach numerous elements of claim 1 and thus the elements of the claims dependent thereon,

including claim 18. Accordingly, all the claims are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, which are believed clearly to place the present application in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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